

resources that make the Wekiva River an excellent addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and it is great pride that I introduce this legislation for consideration before this body.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES  
BRADLEY EARNEST

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to a neighbor, friend and young man who gave his life in service to his country. Brad Earnest, as he was affectionately called, died on August 2, 1999 in Florida.

Brad was critically injured in a helicopter crash as he served in the 10th Special Forces of the United States Army. In the nine years since that accident Brad remained in a coma.

He is survived by his mother, Minna H. Earnest, who deserves the gratitude, great respect and deepest sympathy of every member of Congress and all Americans.

Not only did Minna Earnest lose her son she also sacrificed her husband to our nation when he was killed in Vietnam. What greater heartbreak could one family, one wife and mother endure for the sake of her country?

My last memories of Brad recall him proudly telling me of his Army assignment and his work in service to our country. Most of all we will miss his smile but always remember and celebrate his life.

Brad was a graduate of Winter Park High School in Winter Park, Florida. He attended Auburn University in Alabama where he was a member of Theta Chi Fraternity.

Brad was born in Portsmouth, Virginia on October 16, 1962 and will be laid to rest in Opelika, Alabama.

I know the United States House of Representatives and every Member of Congress extend our deepest sympathy to Brad's mother, Minna H. Earnest, and to his brother, Bryan H. Earnest of Maitland, Florida, and to his paternal grandmother, Margaret Earnest of Opelika, Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE MORRIS

**HON. CHARLES W "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Willie Morris—the great Mississippi writer who dedicated a lifetime to exploring what it means to be a Southerner, and showing what it means to be a friend. And today many friends and admirers are grieving over his death earlier this week.

Everyone who loved Willie and cared for his work understands what a terrible loss this is. In his own unique way, he touched countless souls with his emotional honesty and boyish sense of humor. His perspective was a refreshing retreat from the culture of cynicism that poisons our society, and corrodes our democracy.

William Morris was an American original, and a Mississippi legend. And, the truth is, it's

hard to imagine Mississippi without Willie Morris.

Willie grew up in Yazoo City, Mississippi, a small town on the edge of the Delta, and went on to study at the University of Texas, where he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

At 32, he became the youngest editor-in-chief of Harper's magazine in New York City. In the 1980s he came back to his native Mississippi to teach writing at Ole Miss and to write books.

Willie Morris wrote about the little things that make small-town life special—like football games, dogs, and hole-in-the-wall restaurants. He also wrote about the big things—like faith, family and friendship.

But Willie never shied away from putting these heart-warming descriptions in the context of the South's racial history, or revealing the challenges of laying down its burden.

He did this magnificently, I felt, in "The Courting of Marcus Dupree"—a story about how the outstanding high school football star helped breakdown long-held hostilities between whites and blacks in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

In this book and others, Willie acknowledged the progress made toward racial harmony in Mississippi and across America.

As someone who lived through the transition from the Old South to the New South, he had seen dramatic change in his homeland. But one way or another, he always found a way to say: "We must do better."

Another favorite theme of Willie's was dogs. "Every little boy ought to have a dog," he once said. In *My Dog Skip* and *North Toward Home*, he told some of the best dog stories I've ever heard, stories that inspire the warmest memories of the dogs of our own childhood. Many are so good they make you wish you had lived them yourself—like the time at age 12 when he taught his English Fox Terrier, Skip, how to drive a car:

"I would get the dog to prop himself against the steering wheel," he writes, "his black head peering out the windshield, while I crouched out of sight under the dashboard. Slowing the care to ten or fifteen, I would guide the steering wheel with my right hand while Skip, with his paws, kept it steady. As we drove by the Blue-Front Café, I could hear one of the (old) men shout: 'Look at that ol' dog drivin' a car!'"

Willie Morris loved life and all things in it. And most of all, he loved making friends and encouraging others.

Several years ago, a young writer friend of mine from Texas met Willie and after their meeting sent Willie an essay he had been working on. Days later my friend received his essay, with excellent edits, and a hand-written note from Willie that said: "You're a damn fine writer. Keep the faith, my friend!"

That letter now hangs framed, on my friend's wall, as a medal of encouragement.

Mark Twain once said: "the great people in life are the ones that tell others that they, too, can be great." Willie Morris was one of those great people. He was the kind of guy that once he made friends with you, he was a friend for life. Our good friend Willie Morris has gone away, but his beautiful words and sweet spirit will live on forever and ever.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Joanne Prichard, and his son, David Rae, in this difficult time.

H.R. 2116—VETERANS' MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE ACT

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise in support of the Veterans' Millennium Health Care Act. This bill improves the VA health care system in many ways—it will extend long term care and emergency care services—provide sexual trauma counseling—and will give the VA access to a portion, if funds are recovered from tobacco companies, to compromise for its costs of tobacco-related illnesses.

I am especially pleased that this legislation ensures that the Veterans Administration (VA) will work with licensed doctors of chiropractic care to develop a policy to provide veterans with access to chiropractic services. Even though chiropractic is the most widespread of the complementary approaches to medicine in the United States, serving roughly 27 million patients—and even though Congress has recognized chiropractic care in the other areas of the federal health care system (Medicare, Medicaid, and federal workers compensation), VA has chosen not to make chiropractic routinely available to veterans. This bill changes that!

As a Member representing a portion of San Diego County, I am also pleased that H.R. 2116 includes a biomedical research facility for the VA San Diego Healthcare System to accommodate current and pending research programs on diabetes, immunology, hypertension, Parkinson's Disease, AIDS, and memory.

I encourage my colleagues to support and vote in favor of the Veterans' Millennium Health Care Act.

PRAISING STATE REPRESENTATIVE BILL COLLIER'S PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 5, 1999*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost William H. "Bill" Collier is a gentleman who represents the finest traditions of public service and generosity that so many Tennesseans hold dear.

I was privileged to serve in the Tennessee state legislature with Rep. Bill Collier for four years from 1984 to 1988. For six years after I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, I represented several communities that also had the good fortune to be represented by Bill Collier during his service in the state legislature.

He retired from the state legislature in 1994 after a distinguished career dedicated to public service on behalf of the people of Humphreys and Benton Counties.

Just last month, a section of Highway 70 in New Johnsonville was named for Bill Collier. That action was not only fitting, but also well deserved for a man who was committed to public service. It doesn't hurt that the bypass at Waverly was built largely because of his perseverance.